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AUG 24 2016

EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

While I believe it's important to ensure that the Willamette is cleaned up, I don't believe the current proposal by the EPA is the way to do it. Removing tons of sediment to bring to a landfill is not the best way to get our river in good condition. Plenty of important factors are being overlooked with the current plan, including changes in contamination levels, cost to residents of Portland and the state of Oregon, and the safety and stability of the river and the Portland Harbor. It's necessary for the EPA to draft a better, more logical and less costly solution to address the contamination.

Very few businesses would accept projects based on data collected more than ten years ago with no inclusion of current information, yet the EPA wants us to do that. Samples from the river tested in 2014 showed that the contamination levels in the riverbed had decreased by nearly half. That's a strong improvement and important information that's being overlooked in their current plan. There is natural healing occurring; embarking on a massive dredging project that will bring up more contaminants will disrupt that process and possibly increase contamination levels. You can't clean up something by making it a bigger mess.

Tying up the area with dredging for seven years, or possibly decades, would create an economic hardship for Portland Harbor and all of the businesses that exist on the riverfront, small or large. The cost of the project may cause an increase in taxes; having our businesses suffer compounds the situation. Taxes are already difficult to come up with now. Most people in our neighborhood are retired and live on fixed incomes. We don't need more financial burdens.

The EPA's current plan will not work well for the city of Portland. We have been told the project could cost close to \$750 million, or possibly more. We don't have that kind of money to spend. People in Washington don't really know our area, and a project like this needs more local control and input. You can't effectively regulate something from thousands of miles away. We are more concerned about our environment here than they are in Washington. Having greater local involvement will help create Portland jobs and develop a solution more adequate for the city. We need to be presented with a more flexible, low-cost option that really accounts for the needs of Portland residents.

Sincerely,

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